

House Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Chairman Nino Vitale  
Opponent Testimony on Substitute House Bill 6  
Testimony of THOMAS E. NAPPIER  
RETIRED

May 5, 2019

Chair Vitale, Vice Chair Kick, Ranking Member Denson, and Members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is **Thomas Nappier**, retired, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today as an opponent to Ohio Substitute House Bill 6.

I have strong concerns about the direction Ohio legislation is taking the state and I will outline them below.

1. Few legislators seem concerned about climate change and its causes or effects on the people of Ohio. HB 6 seems more about how we can provide electricity from nuclear power plants and protect the jobs those plants have created instead of how to provide clean carbon free energy to Ohio citizens and potential customers that demand 100% renewable energy.
2. HB6 has an admirable title, Clean Air Program, but dismisses all of the renewable energy sources Ohioans want such as solar and wind and makes them impossible to be incorporated into our energy requirements. There are no provisions to return the wind setback requirements to where they were so that the wind industry can grow like in our neighboring states, bringing more jobs than Davis Besse and Perry have, even including the local non-electric jobs near the power plants. You talk about jobs, jobs, jobs... but when push comes to shove, you do nothing to create these jobs that are readily available in the wind industry. Similarly HB6 effectively shuts down small solar installations because of the 50 MWh minimum requirement (the 5-50 MWh limit on wind also closes the door for it).
3. Perhaps the easiest way to get clean air is being eliminated by doing away with the energy efficiency program—that also eliminates thousands of jobs too. And the payback of \$2.65 for every dollar spent is lost too. What are legislators going to do to replace those jobs that will be lost?
4. Deregulation of the electric industry was supposed to make a level playing field, instead HB6 will pay for inefficient old electric plants that can no longer compete. What are you going to say to the now unemployed workers of all the now closed coal fired power plants when you did not come to their aid?
5. Finally I would like to emphasize that the Catholic Conference of Ohio agrees that clean air is a good goal, but also that alternative energy like wind and solar will benefit the environment, reduce costs and create jobs. The Ohio Catholic Bishops are thus encouraging the Ohio General Assembly to pursue reasonable and effective initiatives for energy efficiency and to develop alternate renewable and clean-energy resources by doing things such as addressing Ohio's overly restrictive WIND SETBACK STANDARDS. See the next page for the information from the Catholic Conference of Ohio.

I appreciate your time and consideration today, I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.



# Catholic Conference of Ohio

## PROMOTE CARE FOR CREATION

"The human family has received from the Creator a common gift: nature. ... Nature, in a word, is at our disposition and we are called to exercise a responsible stewardship over it. Yet so often... we do not preserve nature; nor do we respect it or consider it a gracious gift that we must care for and set at the service of our brothers and sisters, including future generations.

Pope Francis, World Day of Peace 2014, #9

Technologically advanced societies must be prepared to encourage more sober lifestyles, while reducing their energy consumption and improving its efficiency. At the same time there is a need to encourage research into, and utilization of, forms of energy with lower impact on the environment...

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, World Day of Peace 2010, #9

We offer these reflections [regarding Ohio's Alternative Energy Standards], not as experts in appropriate energy standards, but as pastors called to protect God's people and God's planet by living our faith in relationship with all creation.

We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Over the years, our Church has encouraged actions consistent with good stewardship: environmentally conscience consumer choices; individual and corporate actions that promote greater energy efficiency; and support for policies that will reasonably and prudently protect our environment.

### Alternative Energy & Efficiency Incentives

The Catholic Conference of Ohio supports alternative energy and conservation incentives and resources. Alternative energy sources -- such as wind and solar -- benefit the environment, help reduce long-term energy costs, and offer another source for helpful job creation.

We are not advocating for specific benchmarks for alternative energy sources and incentives. However, we encourage the Ohio General Assembly to pursue reasonable and effective initiatives for energy efficiency and to develop alternate renewable and clean-energy resources.

Through firsthand experience, we have come to appreciate the impact the current energy portfolio standards have on improving the energy efficiency of church facilities and individual households. For example, the economic rebate incentives have allowed for affordable boiler replacement and lighting retrofit projects in many of our buildings."

Ohio Catholic Bishops, May 5, 2014

### POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Support for the Governor's budget proposal creating the [H2Ohio Fund](#) to ensure safe and clean water across Ohio by providing the resources necessary to plan, develop, and implement targeted, long-term water solutions. Communities throughout the state regularly face challenges such as algae blooms, failing septic tanks, nutrient pollution, and threats of lead contamination. The fund would be spent over 10 years for water programs impacting Lake Erie and other rivers, lakes, and waterways and could amount to approximately \$900 million;
- Support for the Governor's proposed [Lead Abatement and Tax Credit Initiative](#). This Initiative will abate properties of low- and middle-class families, as well as demolish lead-blighted properties. It will provide an income tax credit of up to a maximum of \$10,000 for eligible individuals who incur expenses related to lead abatement activities for an eligible dwelling. It will create a Lead Worker/Contractor Licensure Repayment Program to reimburse individuals for the cost of becoming licensed lead workers and contractors;
- Careful consideration of provisions regarding drilling on public lands as to public safety, environmental impact, and prudence;
- We support the intent of [HB 6](#) to create the *Ohio Clean Air Program* and significantly reduce carbon emissions. We encourage improvements to this legislation that maintain and strengthen Ohio's commitment to renewable energy and address Ohio's overly restrictive *Wind Setback Standards*. Wind and solar are among the most viable and least risky clean energy sources today and in the future.



*Environmental issues and concerns are increasingly at the forefront of public debate... While these issues are often complex, certain ethical principles apply. Stewardship, prudence, care for the poor, and promotion of the common good are but a few. Public advocacy promoting such principles of environmental justice is a worthy and needed action.*

Ohio Catholic Bishops, Care for Creation Resources

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